

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating a packet network, comprising the steps of:
processing a message in a standardized interface, the message including an indicia; and
identifying a packet application in response to the indicia.
2. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A1 interface.
3. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A3 interface.
4. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A5 interface.
5. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A7 interface.
6. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A9 interface.
7. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A10 interface.
8. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A11 interface.
9. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a control plane packet application.
10. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a bearer packet application.
11. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a push-to-talk packet application.

12. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a Voice-over-IP packet application.

13. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet
5 application is a delay-sensitive packet application.

14. A method of operating a packet network, comprising the steps of:
communicating an A10 message including a generic routing encapsulation header; and
identifying a type of message in response to the generic routing encapsulation header.
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15. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the type of message is a control message.

16. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the type of
15 message is a bearer message.

17. A method of identifying an application in a packet network, comprising the steps of:
identifying a user application;
formulating a message including a flag, the flag identifying the user application; and
20 communicating the message including the flag using a radio link protocol.

18. A method of identifying an application in a packet network, as set forth in claim 17,
wherein the user application is a PTT application and the message is a PTT block of bits.

19. A method of operating a dormant MS, comprising the steps of:
receiving a signaling message;
identifying a packet-based application in response to receiving the signaling message; and
communicating the signaling message to a dormant MS using a short data burst.
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20. A method of operating a dormant MS, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the method is
30 performed in a PCF.

21. A method of operating network, comprising the steps of:
receiving a reverse SDB from a dormant MS; and
35 delivering the SDB to a PDSN using an A10 interface.